

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4304

April 27, 2011

Tom Wilkinson, Jr.
Executive Director
Brazos Valley Council of Governments
P. O. Drawer 4128
Bryan, Texas 77805

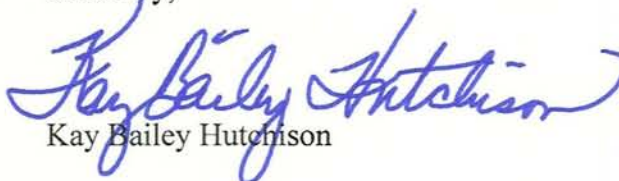
Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding proposed reforms to the Rural Health Care Program of the Universal Service Fund. I appreciate the information you provided about your concerns.

I have contacted the Federal Communications Commission and asked that they carefully consider changes to the universal service health care support mechanism. I noted that The Brazos Valley Council of Governments supports a final rule which includes an open and competitive bidding process to seek funding for the construction of broadband health networks. A properly designed and administered health infrastructure program could provide significant telemedicine benefits to the Brazos Valley in a cost-effective manner.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Kay Bailey Hutchison

cc:

Nancy W. Dickey, M.D, President, Texas A&M Health Science Center and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, A&M System